2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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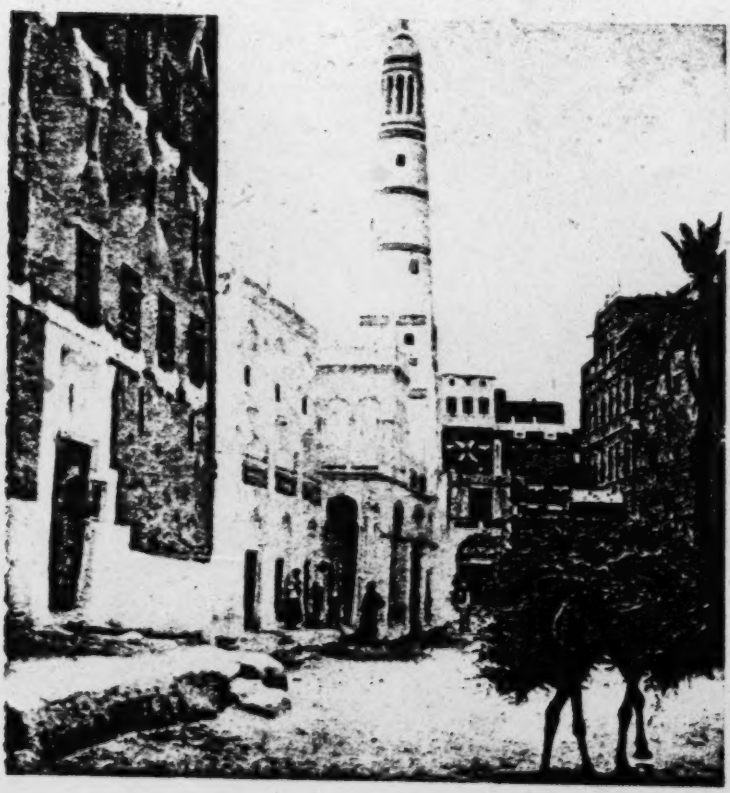

A MOSQUE IN SAIYUN—THE HADHRAMAUT [Frontispiece

[facing p. III]

## *Aden*

175
[312] That Aden still possessed some fine buildings even as late as 1710 we know from the record left by a French traveller who, after referring to the "handsome" aqueduct which had been built originally in 1500 to bring water into the town from Sheikh Othman ten miles away, and deploring the state of the fortifications, referred to the town in the following terms:

[342] "The city is still considerably large and one may still see
[349] several handsome houses two storeys high with flat roofs, but there is also an abundance of rubbish and ruins. It must be
[368] owned that there is nothing finer of its kind than the baths there.
[532] They are lined with marble or jasper and covered with a handsome dome, having a hole at the top to let in light, and adorned on the inside with galleries supported by magnificent pillars."[1]

178 There was no sign of this delightful place when I arrived,
368 nor were there any public baths, swimming or otherwise, until
346 twenty-four years later when I opened the handsome Municipal Swimming Bath in Holkat Bay, but by 1931 Aden was by no means in an "exigent condition of poverty and neglect". Far from it; it was a flourishing town, though all that remained of the ancient splendour was the tall white minaret in Crater overlooking what is now the Football Stadium. A lonely ghost from the past whose mosque has long since disappeared.

000 My disagreeable first impression remains with many travellers for the rest of their lives and the mere mention of the name Aden is sufficient to conjure up in their imaginations an exaggerated recollection of heat, haze and noise and, above all, a barrenness beyond belief.

312 In the early nineteen-thirties fresh water from wells in the village of Sheikh Othman had only recently been brought in to the main town and the population were still dependent mainly on condensed water for drinking purposes, and there was virtually no water at all for gardens or any other form of
000 cultivation. Only a few like myself succeeded in penetrating the haze and forgetting the lack of vegetation and the discomfort of prickly heat, as we became more and more absorbed with the people and their problems and travelled beyond the

[1] Dr. J. C. Young, *Ancient History of Aden*, 1923.

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1



with us and was now returning to his work somewhere on the Abiyan plain. I had no armed escort from the Government Guards. The safety of my companions and myself rested with the Sultan who was fully prepared to accept his responsibility. In fact, if I had attempted to take an armed escort on this particular trip, we would almost certainly have never got to Al Qara at all. The independent-minded tribesmen would undoubtedly have resisted the movement of armed men into their country and we should have been faced with the alternative of turning back or having to force a passage. Not really an alternative because I had not, in those days, a sufficient force at my disposal to overcome spirited resistance from thousands of tribesmen in that tangle of hills.

## QUAITI

Both during my term of office as Governor and during my earlier periods of service in Aden I paid frequent visits to Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti State in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, which nestles below a high hill feature on which stand the now empty watch towers that in days gone by protected the wealthy merchants of the town from bedouin raiders. Mukalla has a fascinating little harbour and the town is grouped attractively round a bay filled with the bluest water that I have ever seen. Viewed from the broad beach outside the ancient gateway as the sun is setting, the town and the hill behind it are suffused with a golden light, and the slender white minarets of the Mosques are a delicate shade of pink. It is really beautiful.

Here in Mukalla are not only the business houses of the merchants who trade with the Far East and Aden and supply the Hadhramaut with its innumerable wants, but also the palace of the Sultan, the British Residency, and the Government Offices of the Quaiti administration. Outside the walls of the town are the depot of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion and the barracks of the Mukalla Regular Army and the Quaiti Armed Constabulary. Here also is the Bedouin Boys' School, a boarding school for the sons of tribesmen run by the State on the

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1



## DESCRIPTION.

The Aden peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valleys between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain on which has been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Naval wireless station, the Aden Protectorate Levy lines, and the golf course. Owing to lack of building space at Tawahi, dwelling-houses for senior Government officials have recently been constructed here. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Settlement.

## PERIM.

Perim island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky, and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry watercourses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and also from the Eastern Telegraph Company's station and Lloyd's signal station being situated there.

## Climate.

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The maximum day temperature recorded was 100·3 in June, and the minimum was 68·1 in December. The rainfall totalled 8 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e. during the north-west monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. from June to September, a hot sandy wind known as Shimal prevails on the peninsula, but on its western side the breezes are

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



In January an Arab driving a truck on a desert track near Sheikh Othman knocked down and killed a Jew. The Supreme Court found him guilty of causing death by negligence and the accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

On 13th September, 1947, an Arab succani of the vessel *El-Hak* had a quarrel with another Arab on the Messageries Maritimes Pier and in the course of the quarrel produced a revolver, fired 3 rounds and fatally wounded the other Arab. He subsequently fired at and wounded one of a number of coolies who tried to arrest him and was finally captured after attempting to swim to his ship. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. This case affords an instance, rare in Aden, of members of the public acting on their own initiative to assist the authorities.

The Imad murder case, referred to in the 1946 Annual Report, was tried by the Supreme Court, and on 23rd April, 1947, three of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to death; one accused was acquitted. There was an appeal to the High Court of Bombay and in September it was announced that the sentences for murder had been quashed. The principal accused was sentenced to 7 years rigorous imprisonment and the other two were acquitted.

*Other Serious Crime*

On the evening of Sunday, 17th August, 1947, the Matron of the Civil Hospital was attacked at the gateway to her house by an assailant who threw a quantity of acid into her face. The Assistant Superintendent of Police in Crater was on the scene within a few minutes of the incident and investigation continued throughout the night. These investigations were severely handicapped by lack of witnesses.

A reward of Rs. 5,000 was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the accused, and the co-operation of Chiefs in the Western Aden Protectorate area was requested and also Muslim religious and social leaders in Aden Colony. Information was eventually received that the person believed to have perpetrated this outrage had taken refuge in a neighbouring territory, but it has not yet been possible to obtain his arrest.

*Fire-Fighting Duties*

Police continued to be responsible for fire-fighting duties in the Colony. The number of fires reported and dealt with by the Police during 1947 is as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tawahi | 2 | Estimated damage | . | Rs. 9,000 |
| Maalla | 4 | " | " | Rs. 700 |
| Crater | 2 | " | " | Rs. 2,025 |
| Sheikh Othman | 5 | " | " | Rs. 2,300 |

These figures do not include buildings destroyed or damaged during the December, 1947, riots.

5:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



the hands of Mr. C. H. Inge, Political Officer, Aden Protectorate. Accurate copies are being made of the many valuable ancient inscriptions in the Aden Museum and in private hands in the Colony in order that they may be made available to experts and students throughout the world. Ancient sites and monuments are now regularly inspected by an Antiquities Guard and this has resulted in two prosecutions of persons accused of stealing materials from public monuments.

## BRITISH COUNCIL

This was the first year in which it was possible to start planning on a peace-time basis, though modified to some extent by the prevailing financial stringency. The assistant representative lecturer arrived from England to assume duty on 24th June, 1947.

The civil disturbances in Aden during December, 1947, inevitably caused some check to British Council activities, although fortunately they occasioned no serious set-back.

The trannsfer of the Library to suitable and capacious quarters on the ground floor of the British Council building was an immense improvement. The whole premises were thoroughly overhauled and redecorated during the quiet period in the hot weather. The Institute still feels the lack of a hall to accommodate fifty or more persons conveniently, and where stage performances, etc., could be held in the cool season.

During the period under review the Council maintained 12 scholars from Aden Colony and Protectorate for training as teachers at educational establishments in the Sudan.

English classes in the Women's Section made progress. Owing to the riots, the Council had an interrupted session, yet regular attendances improved.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Quaiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Quaiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1947 the local government of the Colony remained vested in the two Township Authorities, the larger being vested in the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embracing the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-European, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area covered by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket-making and lime-burning, and who look to the built-up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The members of the Boards which administer the local government of these two areas are at present appointed by the Governor. The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend the various municipal services such as the control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services and roads, the provision of recreational facilities for the public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuff stalls in the public markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controlled prices.

During the year the Authorities opened a new market for petty traders and hawkers, a new public bathing-place where baths, with soap and towels provided, can be secured at a nominal fee, and a new cattle stable to accommodate 350 milk cows at Sheikh Othman.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



647 staff. Public Relations services were somewhat curtailed by the withdrawal of B.I.S.M.E. services in the supply of periodicals and films, and the fact that much of the equipment used throughout the war years had become unserviceable. The most important activities of the Information Office were, however, maintained throughout the year.

*Newspapers*

204 The *Aden Observer*, an eight-page English newspaper, which succeeded the *Aden Argus*, was published weekly and sold at two annas a copy, with a circulation of 1,000 copies a week. The paper ceased publication at the end of the year.

An Arabic newspaper *Al Akhbar al Adaniya* was also published each week and 1,000–1,500 copies were distributed free in the Colony and Protectorates.

*Reading Rooms*

368 Six Reading Rooms were maintained throughout the year at Tawahi, Crater and Sheikh Othman in the Colony; and at Lahej, Mukalla and Seiyun in the Protectorates.

Two others, at Shibam and Gheil Ba Wazir in the Eastern Protectorate, were closed towards the end of the year, as it was considered that they were too remote from supervision and the regular supply of literature to be well run. In addition, reading material has been despatched to Perim and Kamaran Islands and to Red Sea Lighthouses whenever available.

The Reading Rooms are supplied with periodicals, posters and photographs, which are changed each week; the Reading Rooms in the Colony and Western Protectorate also have radios. As mentioned above, the volume of periodicals has been reduced, although a certain number are still distributed both for sale and for use in Reading Rooms.

*Cinema*

647 546 The Information Office has two 16-mm. projectors in the Colony. In the absence of equipment on order from the United Kingdom, it was difficult to give regular or reliable cinema shows, but every effort was made to revive this activity which had been in abeyance since 1945. The projectors were overhauled during the latter part of the year, and brought into use for several public shows.

English newsreels were received each week from England, and distributed at low rental to local cinemas.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

804 Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



lation of Aden as 80,000, gives an average daily consumption, after deducting water to shipping, gardens and military, of 6·9 gallons per head. The average daily consumption per head for all purposes is 20 gallons.

The following table gives details of the water used in Aden during the four years 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948.

| *Details* | 1945 *Million gallons* | 1946 *Million gallons* | 1947 *Million gallons* | 1948 *Million gallons* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Total water raised at bores | 549·2 | 594 | 577·8 | 585·4 |
| 2. Water to civil population through house connections | 124 | 144·5 | 160·8 | 182·5 |
| 3. Total water sold to military | 174·3 | 143·7 | 120·2 | 111·5 |
| 4. Water sold to shipping in port | 50·4 | 43·9 | 52 | 53·4 |
| 5. Water sold at filling stations | 10·8 | 9·5 | 7·7 | 5·4 |
| 6. Water used for gardens | 83·6 | 143·3 | 114·2 | 95·3 |
| 7. Total water supplied free of charge (including gardens, flushing, free stand-posts, fire-fighting etc.) | 114·4 | 170 | 140·6 | 124·2 |
| 8. Water unaccounted for or percentage loss | 13·65% | 13·8% | 16·5% | 17·9% |

*Pumping Plant.* The whole of the pumping plant is in good mechanical condition. The maximum quantity of water, assuming all pumps to be in perfect working order, which can be raised from the bores daily is 2,512,000 gallons.

*Boreholes.* Six new boreholes in Sheikh Othman Garden have been sunk during the year, five by Messrs G. Stow & Co. and one departmentally. This will give an additional 1,200,000 gallons of water per day when the pumps, which are on order, have been installed.

*Reservoirs.* The total capacity of the reservoirs is 2,965,200 gallons.

*Distribution.* The total length of water mains replaced was 7,374 linear feet, mostly 3-inch cast-iron pipes. The total length of new mains laid were 7,750 feet of 4 inches or less in diameter, and 11,703 feet of 6 inches and over.

*Water Meters.* Further new water meters were received during 1948, and it was found possible to give 968 new connections, compared with 336 in 1945, 261 in 1946 and 401 in 1947.

The total number of meters now in use is 5,323.

*Fire Hydrants.* The total number of fire hydrants now installed in the Colony is 169. All these are examined, tested and cleaned every four months. This ensures that they are in complete working order in any emergency and it also assists in flushing out the mains.

*Consumers.* The number of consumers on the registers at the end of 1948 was 5,307, an increase of 881 on that recorded on the same date in 1947.

6:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



*Fire Standposts and other Free Supplies.* During 1948, 124,274,000 gallons of water representing 21·2 per cent of the total water raised was issued free of charge for fire-fighting, gardens, free standposts, Public Works etc. 13,965,000 gallons of water were issued free of charge to the general public from the 32 free standposts now erected in the various points of the Colony.

*Sterilisation of Water.* The whole of the water (except that supplied to Sheikh Othman gardens) is chlorinated before distribution, and the many bacteriological analyses made during the year proved that the water was eminently fit for domestic consumption.

*Drainage Works.* This covers the maintenance of the whole of the sewerage system in the Colony, with the exception of cleansing which is carried out by the Public Health Department.

*New Work.* The expenditure on new works during 1948 was Rs. 265,517. The principal items being shown below:

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1. New house connection and minor extension to water mains | 57,351 |
| 2. Minor drainage works | 8,435 |
| 3. Sinking new boreholes at Sheikh Othman | 74,000 |
| 4. New distribution mains | 51,195 |
| 5. Store room at Isthmus Pump House | 2,770 |
| 6. Quarter for pump cleaner | 3,251 |
| 7. Extension of Maalla drainage | 12,000 |
| 8. Two flushing tanks | 3,576 |
| 9. New 9-inch water main from Sheikh Othman to Khormaksar | 13,915 |

*Finance.* The total receipts for 1948 were Rs. 709,546 and the expenditure Rs. 653,896.

The total expenditure on the water supply since its inception to 31st December, 1948, is Rs. 7,024,204 and the amount received from the sale of water during the same period is Rs. 8,349,272.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Waterworks Department is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of all sewers in the Colony. All sewage discharges into the sea through five separate sea outfalls taken to just below low-water mark. Except at Sheikh Othman, where small primary settling tanks have been constructed, there are no sewage disposal works. In order to minimise the fouling of the harbour and beaches all water-closets are required to discharge into the sewers through a septic tank, where all solid matter is first liquefied.

Government have approached an eminent London firm of consulting engineers, with a view to the preparation of a complete sewerage scheme for the Colony.

The cleansing of sewers is carried out by the Public Health Department.

6 Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden 1) M1



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1948. In accordance with their recommendation the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce unprofitable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinemas was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Fortress, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeaker.

[illegible] Information Officer inaugurated a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

*Reuters Bulletin* (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden, P. & O. House, Steamer Point, Aden.

*Fatat-el-Jazirah* (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

# PART III

## Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises : 131 361

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula. 133 361

The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. 133 368

Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Township Authority, and there are some privately-owned date-palms there. Hiswa also has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony. 241

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward at its southern extremity is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. It possesses a good small harbour on the south-west side, with an entrance 860 yards in breadth, and a small air landing ground. 133 134 368 504

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MM1



625 The standard of literacy is very low and many of the recruits can
212 neither read nor write Arabic. Only a few are able to read and write simple English. Evening schools were started in June, 1952, by arrangement with the Director of Education who provided teachers and allowed the use of classrooms at three schools.

Athletics were revived and a very good meeting was held in December, 1952.

## CRIME

### SERIOUS AND MINOR CASES IN 1952.

674

| *Offences under the Indian Penal Code* | *Cases Reported* | *Taken to Court* | *Convicted* | *Under Investigation* | *No. of Juveniles Convicted* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Homicide | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Other offences against the person : | | | | | |
| (*a*) Attempted Murder | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| (*b*) Rape and unlawful carnal knowledge | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| (*c*) Unnatural offences | 7 | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| (*d*) Other offences | 191 | 158 | 116 | 10 | 5 |
| Malicious injury to property | 5 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injury to property) : | | | | | |
| (*a*) Theft | 717 | 347 | 264 | 38 | 25 |
| (*b*) House-breaking | 186 | 63 | 49 | 4 | 5 |
| (*c*) Criminal & house trespass | 42 | 28 | 23 | 3 | — |
| (*d*) Other | 255 | 121 | 106 | 3 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 1,409 | 727 | 567 | 59 | 37 |
| Minor Acts | 5,429 | 5,229 | 3,589 | 14 | 18 |

1952 saw an increase of 33 per cent in serious crime compared with 1951. The rise in crime coincided with an apparent very marked increase in the population. Thefts rose by 43 per cent and house breakings by 34 per cent.

368 *Other Police Duties*

625 *Fire Fighting.* Twelve fires were attended and dealt with by the police.

167 *Immigration and Passports.* There was an increase in 1952 of 30 per
486 cent in the number of immigrants as compared with 1951. Seven hundred and four new entry permits were issued and over 19,000 people were dealt with by the Immigration Officers. Over 10,770 people left the Colony.

The number of travel documents issued in 1952 was 4,250, an increase of 60 per cent over the previous year. The work increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to employ an officer on full-time duty from August, 1952.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1



647 tion of newsreels to commercial cinemas and the supply of periodicals
204 and official pictorial matter to institutions and interested persons in the
546 Colony and Protectorate. In addition, regular showings were given to the public and to clubs of news and documentary films in English and A[illegible]ctivity later brought within the sphere of the Labour and [illegible]partment.

368 Th[illegible]ading rooms were maintained in the Protectorate and have [illegible]o be well patronised.

# Chapter 13 : General

## ARCHAEOLOGY

172 In 1950 and 1951 the American Foundation for the Study of Man carried out two short seasons of excavation in Beihan under the archaeological supervision of Professor W. F. Albright. The main site examined, that of Hagr Kohlan, was already known from inscriptions, to be the ruins of Timna, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban. The area of the walled city covered some 70 acres and excavation revealed a number of very substantial and well constructed stone buildings. The city appeared to have been totally destroyed by fire about the end of the 1st Century B.C. A section cut in a subsidiary mound produced a long series of pottery types thought to show more or less continuous occupation from the 13th Century B.C. down to the Middle Ages. A large number of inscriptions found in both sites and elsewhere in Wadi Beihan are in course of being published by Dr. A. Jamme of Louvain.

## ARCHIVAL SURVEY

217 In October, 1952, Dr. A. Toussaint, the Chief Archivist to the Government of Mauritius, arrived to conduct a preliminary survey of Government archives and records. Though the survey was not complete at the end of the year it was clear that substantial progress in the method of preserving and cataloguing the records of the Colony would call for greatly improved storage facilities and expert staff.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

368 Adult education in Aden has not reached a stage where cultural activities flourish spontaneously ; nor, since the closing down of the British Council, is there any cultural centre outside the Department of Education. The nearest approach to such a centre and in itself a legacy of the British Council is the Lake Library.

This library has been built up over a period of twelve years and now contains 10,000 volumes ; these include Arabic and Urdu books and a reference library. The reading room, which is provided with a wide selection of periodicals and is comfortably furnished, is extremely popular in the evening. The library has a large and growing membership of Europeans who are quick to appreciate its worth. The Arab

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1



membership, at present regrettably small, is increasing, and it is to be hoped that when the books are housed in the new library building which is to be situated in the centre of Crater, its greater accessibility will encourage more Arabs to join.

There is no tradition of pictorial art in South-West Arabia and practically no native handicrafts, therefore it is unusually difficult for the local Arab to produce anything original or characteristic, and his attempts at self-expression are all influenced by foreign art and have none of the freshness of primitive or aboriginal painting. He is indeed a late-comer to all the finer arts and consequently lacks taste and spontaneity. Nevertheless, the urge for self-expression is there, and the Aden Arts Club came into being specifically with the idea of encouraging people of all races interested in painting to meet together. In this it has been only partially successful as once again the European element tends to submerge the Arab.

In the last three years the Arts Club has sponsored three exhibitions of painting (two of which included handicrafts) and these exhibitions have certainly caused a quickening of interest even if they have produced no more tangible result. Though the show of talent is unimpressive, it is too early to demand standards and the aim is to arouse interest and stimulate endeavour. The same purpose is being pursued amongst the women, and here the standard of handicrafts, as produced by the Aden Protectorate Levies Wives' Club, has shown marked improvement—possibly because they are quick to grasp that good work can command a good market. Such incentive is excellent, and it is a pity that it is inapplicable to the less functional arts.